

The 2% Strategy

Spring 2005



The 2% Strategy evolved out of the *Compass Growth Vision* as a plan to optimally accommodate population growth in the SCAG region. The Strategy's basic premise is that 98% of the region's 38,000 square miles can be spared from the negative effects of uncontrolled growth by concentrating growth in just 2%.

A Vision for Growth in Southern California

The 2% Strategy is an approach to meet the growth challenges of a vast, far flung region that expects to add 5 million people and over 2 million housing units over the next 25 years. It evolved out of the *Compass Growth Vision* process, an exercise tackling how to absorb this growth within the context of the trends and challenges we face today: traffic gridlock, worsening air pollution, excessive consumption of agricultural land and open space for development, and a housing market in crisis.

If executed as envisioned, regional residents can expect to experience a future characterized by less congestion, shorter commutes, cleaner air, good jobs, affordable housing and plenty of space for recreation and relaxation.

Local Input is Crucial

Fundamentally, the strategy promotes a concentration of new and infill development along existing and planned transportation corridors and in new regional centers. The approach respects local input and public feedback. It acknowledges that success is based upon both the region and individual cities realizing benefits: Only projects that are viable and desirable from a local perspective will be embraced and ultimately undertaken.

Key Features & Benefits

In addition to focusing on the benefits of integrated land use and transportation planning, the strategy:

- promotes mixed use development
- preserves stable neighborhoods
- provides better access to jobs
- conserves open space
- supports public/private partnerships and user-fee infrastructure financing

It also:

- allows transit systems to become more productive
- improves the capacity and efficiency of goods movement
- reduces vehicle miles traveled, improving air quality
- improves housing availability and affordability
- renovates urban cores
- creates over 500,000 high paying jobs

Tools and Tactics

In addition to initiating pilot and demonstration programs of the 2% Strategy, SCAG is prepared to provide technical assistance, tools, training and tactical support to cities containing critical growth opportunity areas and to all who wish to support the vision.

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Resolving Regional Challenges

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